

SLANG WORDS FROM THE WIRES

Queer Expressions Used Every Day by Telegraph Operators.

DISTINCT MEANING IN EACH TIME AND SPACE SAVED BY SENDERS OF MESSAGES.

In the rush of every day commercial life, hundreds of telegrams pass into and out of the telegraph offices in Salt Lake City, yet it is doubtful if one person out of a hundred gives more than a passing glance to the curious cabalistic letters which the operators insert at the head of all outgoing or incoming messages. Beyond those seemingly meaningless letters and figures, there is, however, a vocabulary peculiar to the profession which the general public does not understand.

People in the telegraph business, like those of other trades or lines of business, become more or less clannish, and, associating amongst themselves so closely, have developed a great many slang words and phrases peculiar to the business they are in and which to most people are quite unintelligible.

The meaning of ordinary slang is quickly grasped by the general run of Americans, it having no reference to any particular business, but slang associated with any one branch of business is not so readily understood and the telegraph business has a great deal of it.

Use of Slang Words.

Words like "ham" and "bug" are now common to all grades. A few years ago they were used principally in the theatrical profession and among telegraphers. Both have the same meaning, being used to designate a person incompetent in his position. The former probably originated with the theatrical profession, while the latter had its origin in the ranks of the telegraphers. The word now used in the telegraph business in place of these two words is "id." This word contains more sarcasm than the others, and is very exasperating to an operator, for the reason that it has a wider meaning, it means an incompetent workman and a person ignorant of everything in general.

If one of two operators engaged in conversation should ask the other if he had ever met or heard of—Johnny Gilbert, for instance—he would probably ask: "What does he sign?" (telegraphically spelled "sine"). A great many operators have a wire acquaintance but have never met each other personally. One in San Francisco may work daily with one in New York for years, and each would be ignorant of the name of the other, simply knowing each other by the "sine" by which operators are identified. That is what would bring forth the inquiry: "What does he sine?" A "sine," or, more properly speaking, a signal, is a letter or letters used by operators in sending or receiving messages and each message handled by an operator must bear his "sine" in order that the operator handling it may be identified should it become necessary to trace the message.

To get a "sine" means to be given a position in an office and to be assigned a signal or "sine" by the chief operator. An operator remarking that he "once had a 'sine' in Chicago" would mean that he was once employed in that office.

One of the group might make the remark that "BN" was lifted from "CH" today, by which he would mean that the operator using "BN" as a signal had been taken off the Chicago circuit during the day, for, presumably, unsatisfactory work.

A great many operators become affected with what is generally known as operators' paralysis, as a result of which their sending becomes uneven and hard for the receiving operator. To person so affected is usually referred to as having a "glass arm," or as being a "man killer."

Bunch of Indians.

Night rate messages which are at times referred to by the general public as "red" messages, are sometimes referred to by telegraphers as "Indians," and when several have accumulated, they are referred to as a "bunch of Indians."

Practically all long telegraph circuits are equipped with automatic repeaters, which are instruments placed at certain points for the purpose of picking up a weak current and strengthening it by automatic re-transmission. These are referred to as "repeaters" and when at times they become affected in such a way as to record false signals they are, in the telegraphic vernacular, said to be "buggy." It requires a firm sender to get telegraphic signals through a wire having several sets of repeaters on it, but sometimes an operator whose sending is not firm gets to such a wire and the sending is not easily received at the other end. A sender of this kind is known as a "chumpy sender" or as one who "drops off at the first pole."

Should the circuit happen to be weak from an insufficient amount of electric current, it is said that it needs more "juice." An operator using a typewriter for copying messages from the wire is said to use a "mill" while one using a pen or pencil is known as using a "stick." When one is told "to sit in" it means that he is to take the place of some other operator at the wire. An "OSR" is a term used as applying to an operator formerly employed on the railroad, "OS" being the signal to report trains as used on train dispatching wires.

How Small Offices Are Classified.

"The woods" is that section of a telegraph office in which wires are assembled, each wire carrying from five to thirty offices or small towns within a radius of from 200 to 400 miles. The "Met" (Metropolitan) is that section of the office assigned to the assembly of wires leading to numerous branch offices within the city.

If during a conversation between operators on the wire, one of them wishes to end the conversation, he will usually say "25," a signal meaning "I am busy." An expression of regard between operators is conveyed in the figures "73" meaning "my compliments," or "best wishes."

Another well known signal is conveyed in the figures "30," meaning "the end." This signal is used in newspaper press report, the last sheet always containing "30" to indicate the close for the day. This signal also has a touching meaning at times, often being woven into floral pieces contributed by operators at the funerals of deceased members of the craft.

Slang Dictionary.

The following is an abridged dictionary of slang expressions used in telegraph offices wherever the English tongue is spoken:

"30"—"Good-night, no more."
"31"—"Have you any business for me?"
"4"—"Where shall I go ahead?"
"Ham"—"Learner."
"OS"—"Poor operator and breaks frequently."
"OS"—"Train report."
"25"—"Best regards."
"25"—"Busy other wires."
"1"—"Wait a minute."
"Your Punk"—"Poor operator; ought to be back on railroad."

"Bugs"—"Wire trouble."
"Out of Balance"—"Or 'Needs lining up' when a duplex works badly."
"Rider"—"Man assigned to watch repeaters on a bad working wire."
"Willies"—"Messenger boys' term for telegrams."
"9"—"Signal used for wire chiefs, takes preference."
"36"—"Superintendent's business; rush."
"17"—"Signal for grain message."
"Bonus Operator"—"Fast operator; paid by piecework."
"Bughouse"—"Condition of an operator after he has worked twenty-four hours without rest."
"32"—"Signal means 'Delivery.'"
"13"—"Don't understand."

"Code"—"Contraction of words."
"Code Man"—"Operator putting down three times as many words as sent."
"Floater"—"Operator who stays in one place only a week or two in each city."
"Flagging"—"Using assumed name of some operator in good standing."
"Blockie"—"Man out of position and after 15 cents for a meal."

One of the Wonders of Japan.

One of the wonders of Miyajima is an enormous structure called Thousand Mat hall, a name which means that 1,000 of the regulation 3x5-foot rice straw mats are required to cover its floor. All rooms in Japan are measured in this way, instead of by feet,

so in talking about houses one always says a "six-mat room" or "three-and-a-half-mat room," until one begins to think in divisions of eighteen square feet. Thousand Mat hall was erected in the sixteenth century out of the wood of a single camphor tree, say the Japanese records, that are always so full of such perfectly wonderful details. If this be so, camphor trees must have grown very large in Japan in the sixteenth century, since the building rests upon a hundred or more piles, each a giant tree trunk in itself, beside which the roof is upheld by at least fifty pillars that were fifty forest monarchs once upon a time. There is a floor in the structure made of 18,000 square feet of cedar planks, a foot and a half wide and five

inches thick, so one must needs believe that its builder outtraced the miracle of the loaves and the fishes, if Japan's sober records are to count for anything. The walls of this ancient hall have doubtless echoed the sounds of many a priestly orgy, since it adjoins the temple and is guarded by a richly wrought seven-story pagoda, enshrining Amida Budo, but the most glorious thing in its history seems to be the fact that Hideyoshi, "the Napoleon of Japan," used it for a council chamber during his remarkable invasion of Korea. Now it is merely a "show place," standing empty and open and gaunt, overlooking the sea—a roost for sacred pigeons and chattering sparrows. It was during the China-Japan war that

troops first began to be quartered on the island, and several regiments, for want of better barracks, were camped in this old historical structure. One evening, in half jest, half earnest, a soldier nailed his rice ladle (meshi toru) to one of the pillars, with a prayer that he and his regiment might soon be sent to help conquer (meshi toru, with a different inflection) the Chinese. His comrades followed his example, and since then it has become a custom for every visitor to the hall to buy a rice ladle and, writing his name and the date of his visit upon it, with, of course, "Dai Nippon Banzai!" tack it up somewhere in the vast building. The effect is better imagined than described, and it is, I think, unique beneath the sun.

COUNT THE NAMES

In Your Telephone Book to See Its Value to You.

Nearly 8,000. Actual number March 1, 1904. ROCKY MOUNTAIN BELL TELEPHONE CO.

GUSTAV DINKLAGE,

Expert piano tuner, repairer, has returned to city. Add. Box 905. Phone Carstensen & Anson company.

Modern Plumbing.

At moderate prices. George G. Doyle & Co., 211 State street. Phone 162.

DRAWING THE CURTAIN ASIDE

Spring's First Big Sale of Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Garments.

Style Revelations in Spring Garments and New Conceits in Tailoring Exclusive Here

Here you will find garments that have appropriated the bright cheerfulness of the new season, having a freshness of cut and material which constitutes that indefinable charm of the well groomed woman in spring. Each garment designed to embody the height of fashionable grace.

BIG SHOWING AND SPECIAL PRICING FOR THIS GREAT SALE EVENT.

SPECIAL SILK SALE

For Monday Morning Only, from 8 a. m. to 1 o'clock

50c SATIN 31c Per Foulards Yard

Handsome polka dot and broken dot designs in the new colors, navy, green, brown, tan, cadet, royal, etc., all 50c grades.



Special Dress Goods Sale

For Monday Afternoon Only, from 1 to 6 o'clock

75c All Wool 49c Per Panamas Yard

No need to dwell on the popularity and extreme style of this high-grade all wool suit. It comes 12 inches wide, in black, cream, brown, navy, green, red, gray, copper, etc., nothing handsomer for full dresses and separate skirts, regular 75c grade.

Great Stock of SILKS.

Desirable
THIS SILK STOCK IS NOW BETTER EQUIPPED THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY. WITH THE PRESTIGE OF LONG EXPERIENCE HAS COME A PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF THE WANTS OF SILK USERS AND THAT IN CONNECTION WITH OUR EXTENDED PURCHASING FACILITIES, ADDED TO OUR UNMATCHED LOW PRICES, MAKE A COMBINATION THAT MUST BRING YOU TO COHN'S FOR YOUR SILKS IF YOU WOULD BUY THEM RIGHT.

24-inch white habutais, 45c
6c grade
27-inch white habutais, 85c
10c grade
19-inch all silk black taffetas, 50c grade, 45c
22-inch all silk black taffetas, 50c grade, 69c
27-inch all silk black taffetas, 50c grade, 79c
19-inch all silk black peau de sole, 50c grade, 65c
22-inch all silk black peau de sole, 50c grade, \$1.10
Fancy figured taffetas and louisines for shirt waist suits, waists, etc., in pin stripes, checks and figures, 50c grade, at 69c
Newest shadings in an elegant range of the popular changeable glazes, handsome soft finished new pajamas and chignon taffetas, also an extensive display of figured, striped and checked taffetas, \$1.25 and \$1.50 grades, for 98c

New Surplice Silk Suit

\$21.00



This is an entirely new surplice model, as illustration shows, made of best quality chignon taffeta, blouse finished on front and back with side pleats trimmed with silk braid, newest shaped sleeves, skirt in the cluster fan skirt style, a beauty. \$21.00 Sale on second floor.

This Handsome Tailored Suit

\$21.50



Strictly man-tailored garments of best grade imported check suit, fly front coat with fitted back, 24 inch long, front and back tailored with self straps, black silk braid loops and covered buttons, novelty stitched vest, trimmed with metal buttons. Jacket lined with taffeta, pleated near novelty red cloth cuffs, skirt in the new cluster skirt style. \$21.50 Sale on second floor.

This Sicilian Blouse Suit

\$22.00



Extremely fashionable garment of high grade fancy check and figured Sicilian. New pleated blouse effect front and back, entire suit daintily piped with striped silk to match, collarless yoke of stitched taffeta, newest tucked sleeves, coat lined with taffeta silk, skirt in entirely new skirt style. \$22 Sale on second floor.

This Nobby Silk Shirt-Waist Suit

\$17.95



Fine chiffon taffeta, cluster tucked waist, fancy self-trimmed with French knots, new skirt, tucked leg-mitten sleeve, very dainty and serviceable. \$17.95 Sale on second floor.

NEW MOHAIRS.

Serviceable as Cheviot, Sparkling as Silk.

Mohair is possessed of qualities known to no other fabric. It is light, lustrous, durable, pliable, beautiful, and above all, fashionable. Its variety is infinite, and its usefulness covers practically the full range of feminine dress from costume to traveling coat. We are showing this stylish fabric in all the newest effects—invisibly checks, plaids, fancy figures, silk embroidered shawls and solid colors. Brilliant mohairs at—
50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50

White Goods Specials

12 1/2c grade fine imported long cloth, to be sold by the piece of 12 yards at the special price of \$1.10
25c grade imported English nainsook, to be sold by the piece of 12 yards at the special price of \$2.40
30c grade fine white India linen at per yard, only 15c

Remnants of White Goods.

India linens, Persian lawns, checked and plain nainsooks, striped and checked dimities, cambrics and long-cloths, in lengths from 2 to 3 yards.

1/3 Under Price

15c New Curtain Swisses - 10c

100 pieces new figured curtain Swisses, full yard wide, in an excellent range of pretty embroidered patterns.

Spring COMFORTS Weight

72x96-inch full size lightweight bed comforts, filled with pure white cotton, silkline covered \$1.35

Special in Heavy Weight BED LINEN

Our celebrated ironclad sheets, made of best quality extra weight materials throughout, deep hem size 72x96, Special \$5.96
Cases to match above in quality and finish, size 63x88, full extra size. Special, each 15c

NEW EASTER Kid Gloves

All the very newest productions and most fashionable spring shades now on sale. Every glove shown here represents the highest quality at the price that years of practical experience and money can secure.

TRIUMPH KID GLOVES.

The highest quality ever achieved at its price. Come in glance, pure sewn, embroidered back, handsome range of color—\$1.00

DERBY AND PALAIS ROYAL.

The two peers of their class. The former is a medium weight for shopping and street wear, the latter a light weight skin for dress and evening wear; both come in the new spring shades, and priced at—\$1.50

TREFOUSE SUEDES.

The perfection of French suede gloves in black only, most satisfactory glove of its kind in the world only—\$1.50

MONARCH.

Its equal cannot be produced at any price. Made of the finest selected French skins. Paris polka backs, 2 clasp, plaque seams, guaranteed and fitted, immense showing of Easter shades, per pair—\$2.00

Special Sale of 35c and 50c Collars 25c

Handsome new stock collars in fine washable madras, trimmed with crocheted buttons and French knots, fancy medallion trimmed, mercerized washable voile stock collars, all lace and medallion short pointed stock in white, black and colors. 35c and 50c grades.

MUSLIN UNDERWEAR

CORSET COVERS.
35c Corset Covers, French style, full front trimmed with lace insertion, lace around neck and sleeves.
50c Corset Covers of fine cambric trimmed with fine tucks, lace insertion, beading and ribbon.
65c Corset Covers of nainsook or cambric, lace yoke front and fine tucks and insertion.

GOWNS.
50c Muslin Gowns, full length and wide, Mother Hubbard shape, yoke trimmed with hemstitched tucks and ruffle.
75c Muslin or nainsook gowns and ruffle of fine tucks, insertion, beading and ribbon.
\$1.00 Muslin, cambric or nainsook gowns, slip over, Empire or high neck styles, trimmed with fine lace or embroidery.

DRAWERS.
35c Cambric Drawers trimmed with hemstitched tucks.
50c Cambric or muslin drawers, wide flounce trimmed with lace or fine tucks and embroidery.
65c Cambric or nainsook drawers, ruffle trimmed with lace insertion and lace or fine tucks and English embroidery.

SKIRTS.
75c Muslin skirts wide ruffle trimmed with two rows of torchon lace insertion and wide lace.
\$1.00 Muslin skirts, wide flounce trimmed with a hemstitched tucks and English embroidery.

This Voile Suit \$47.00



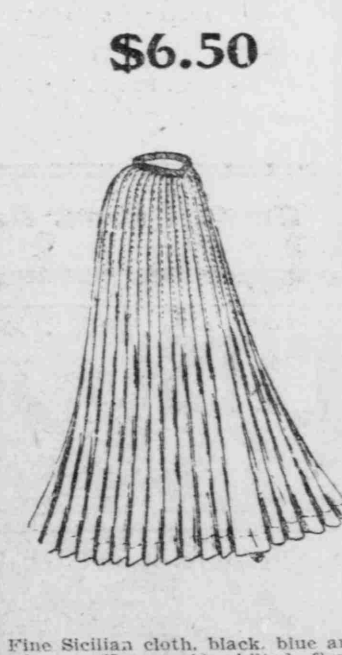
Suits of the best quality imported voile, a very popular model with fluffy blouse front and back, best effect of handsomely embroidered white chiffon over taffeta, waist fitted with graduated belt pleats; very novel trimmed and shirred sleeves, skirt finished all around with cluster side pleats, entire suit made over chiffon taffeta. This cut does not begin to display the fine features of this beautiful garment. \$47 Sale on second floor.

This Covert Jacket \$13.95



Single or double breasted style, fancy tailor stitched and inlaid velvet collar, lined throughout with best quality taffeta. A very nobby jacket at special price of \$13.95 Sale on second floor.

This Handsome Skirt \$6.50



Fine Sicilian cloth, black blue and brown, 35 gore side fitted flare, the popular skirt this season. \$6.50 Sale on second floor.

This Raincoat \$8.95



Good quality cravenette, Oxford, grey and castor, collarless trimmed with stitched straps, new cut sleeve, two box pleats in back with belt effect, and extra ordinary value \$8.95 Sale on second floor.